CURRENT CONCEPTS IN RADIOLOGY—Volume Three—Edited by E. James Potchen, MD., Chairman, Department of Radiology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, The C. V. Mosby Company, 3301 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri (64103), 1977. 453 pages, $39.50.

The editor has assembled a group of distinguished contributors in this third volume in the series of *Current Concepts in Radiology*. Besides chapters with timely discussion of standard radiographic techniques, emphasis is given in the majority of chapters to the rapidly advancing technology of computed tomography and to progress in nuclear radiology. The selected topics included in this volume are: (1) information systems in department operations, (2) image quality of computed tomography, (3) computed tomography and its application to nuclear medical imaging, (4) computed tomography of the abdomen and aorta, (5) alternative display formats for computed tomography (CT) data, (6) radiologic detection of breast cancer, (7) some metabolic considerations in bone disease, (8) bone imaging, (9) comparative radiology: dysplasias of the canine forelimb, (10) radiologic diagnosis of pleural effusions, (11) linear shadows in chest radiographs, (12) radionuclide imaging of the myocardium, (13) thrombus detection, (14) electrocoagulation of small lung tumors, (15) some basic considerations of cerebrospinal fluid physiology as reflected by CSF imaging studies, (16) radionuclide liver imaging, and (17) evaluation of diagnostic screening tests: a case study in hypertension.

The first chapter deals with the comparison of automated versus manual informational systems. It covers the subject completely, including cost analysis. The four chapters on computed tomography are of particular and timely interests to diagnostic radiologists trying to keep up with recent advances.

The editor has succeeded in his attempt to provide a bridge between the current journal publications and the more formal textbooks in the field. This volume is recommended reading to diagnostic radiologists and physicians working in the field of nuclear medicine.

H. JOACHIM BURHENNE, MD
Chairman, Dept. of Radiology
Children's Hospital of San Francisco;
Clinical Professor of Radiology
University of California, San Francisco

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TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY—Ninth Edition—George H. Bell, BSc, MD (Glasg), FRSE, Professor of Physiology in the University of Dundee; Honorary Fellow of the Accadèmia Anatomico-Chirurgica of Perugia; Donald Emslie-Smith, MD(Aberd), FRCP, FRCP(Edin), Reader in Medicine in the University of Dundee; Honorary Consultant Physician, the Royal Infirmary and Ninewells Hospital, Dundee; and Colin R. Paterson, DM, BSc(Oxon), MRCPath, Senior Lecturer in Biochemical Medicine in the University of Dundee; Honorary Consultant to the Tayside Area Health Board. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 733 pages, $20.00 (paperback).

This is the ninth edition of a book that first appeared in 1950 and has become a standard text in the basic medical sciences. In its early editions, it had a hard cover and was a weighty medical tome. The current edition is in paperback and has only 697 pages, exclusive of the index. Despite this apparent reduction in size, it still contains a good deal of information because the pages are large and double columned.

I must admit that I have long admired this book for its illustrations, and some years ago, I borrowed several of them for my own textbook of physiology. The present edition continues the tradition of excellent, simple and illustrative line drawings. It also contains some very good photographs, but unfortunately the reproduction of photographs in the present edition is of poor quality throughout the book, and much of the detail is lost.

The book is unique among the major basic science texts in that it combines coverage of biochemistry and physiology. The result, not surprisingly, is that both subjects are slighted to some degree. Most of the biochemistry is physiological chemistry and the coverage of some aspects of modern biochemistry is skimpy. On the physiological side, the coverage of the nervous system and the endocrine system is somewhat cursory. However, the book is generally well written, and it provides a good if somewhat superficial coverage of medically relevant aspects of biochemistry and physiology.

WILLIAM F. GANONG, MD
Professor of Physiology
Chairman, Department of Physiology
University of California, San Francisco

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A TEXTBOOK OF EPILEPSY—Edited by John Laidlaw, FRCP (Edin), Senior Physician to Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy; Physician-in-charge of the National Hospitals—Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy and Honorary Consultant to the National Hospital; and Alan Richens, PhD, MRCP, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Honorary Consultant, The National Hospitals—Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy and Honorary Lecturer, Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, London. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 389 pages, $39.50.

This multiple-authored British text on epilepsy edited by Laidlaw and Richens joins a number of other good books on the subject that have been published in recent years. In general the book follows traditional lines, containing chapters on the neurology of epilepsy, fits in childhood, electroencephalography, the psychiatric aspects of epilepsy, clinical pharmacology and medical treatment of epilepsy, neuroradiology, neurosurgical treatment, and the neuropathology and pathophysiology of epilepsy. The chapters entitled "People With Epilepsy—The Burden of Epilepsy" and "People With Epilepsy—Living With Epilepsy" differ refreshingly from those found in the average neurological text. These chapters explore and discuss some of the vital sociomedical issues created by epilepsy, using actual case histories to effectively illustrate the point.

The two chapters dealing with the neurology of epilepsy and the choice of anticonvulsant medication which are written from an American point of view provide an interesting contrast to the otherwise all-English production. It is worthy of note, for instance, that certain therapies considered outmoded in the United States continue to be used in England, for example, intramuscular administration of paraldehyde for status epilepticus, a treatment generally abandoned in America because of the potentially serious necrotoxic effects of the drug. On the other hand, the book discusses the use of such new and effective anticonvulsant drugs as sodium valproate, which has not as yet been released for general use in this country. The volume contains a great deal of useful, well written, and well referenced information. It lives up to the claims made by its authors: "intelligible and of considerable value to any intelligent, educated, nonmedical person with a particular interest in epilepsy" and that physicians "in other disciplines should be able to understand fully what they are reading." Although the book should be useful to any number of professionals who deal with patients afflicted with epilepsy, from the family practitioner to the social worker, the book is probably more appropriate for British professionals operating in a somewhat different sociomedical climate and health care delivery system from those in the United States.

PIERRE M. DREYFUS, MD
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurology
University of California, Davis